

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

March 31, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

March 31-April 11

CogAT

April 21-May 2

IAAT (algebra placement test)

April 25

Rockin Lock In

May 14

Robert Crown Field Trip

May 16

Transition Picnic

June 6 (tentative)

Pool Outing

June 9 (This is a CHANGE)

Completion Ceremony

June 10

Last Day of School (Calendar Change)

CogAT Testing This Week

Students will take the CogAT test this Wednesday, an information letter was sent home the week before the break with details.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is: <http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) The results for the Design an Ad contest were published over spring break. There were ten schools in the contest. The paper awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd place as well as three honorable mentions. Holmes received three of the six possible awards! Congratulations to Evelyn Hunt (third place), Olivia Cordes and Sophie Bessell (both Honorable Mentions) for designing winning advertisements!

Music - This year we will be orchestrating some of our compositions for the 5th grade Shakespeare plays. Students will use playing skills and Garage Band on their iPads to record their works.

Chorus - The choral festival is this Tuesday, April 1st. Students need to be at the high school at 6:40 but make sure you come earlier if you are driving due to parking. Students should enter through the main doors on Scoville Avenue and follow signage to their designated warm up area. Dress for the concert is as follows:

GIRLS: White tops or blouses and dark (preferably black) skirts or pants,

BOYS: White shirts and dark (preferably black) pants, dark socks and shoes (preferably no gym shoes).

Spanish - Each class is again creating their own unique story. We will be finishing up these this week and then creating mini-libros. Students will be able to read the stories to la familia y amigos for extra puntos. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - We will be starting a new research project in library that will combine research skills, writing skills, and knowledge in social studies and science. We will be using CultureGrams, a great database provided to us by the Oak Park Public Library. More to come on the outline for this project next week! **READING OLYMPIANS:** There is one more competition, for those interested: Reading Olympics **EXTREME!** This competition includes all 18 books read in the fall and spring. Teams that are interested will meet this Wednesday, April 2 during recess for a brief run-down of the competition. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> . As always, feel free to email me with questions mmaneck@op97.org .

Physical Education - (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Resource

Ms. Rose has created a new blog for the families of her Resource students. For more information on her activities, please visit: [Ms. Rose- Resource Support](#)

Reading/Literature

This week, we are reviewing inferencing skills and identifying the theme of a story. Students will combine their background knowledge with clues in the text to figure out the full meaning of what they are reading. It's like being a detective! When we finish a story, we'll reflect and consider what the author was trying to teach us.

Writing

This week we will continue to work on Persuasive Essays and exploring the question of "Which is more important, imagination or knowledge?".

Math

Today we reviewed graphing points on a coordinate grid and began a very short unit on two-dimensional figures. This week, we will focus primarily on triangles. We will discuss angle and side properties of triangles and create a hierarchy of triangle properties.

Science

This week in science, we will begin our human body unit, with a day each week dedicated to a study

of ecosystems. The human body unit includes a visit the Robert Crown center for our study of puberty and the dissection of sheep hearts and eyeballs. For ecosystems, we will focus on composting, working in the Holmes garden, and writing a grant for an outdoor classroom. Please let us know if you are interested in assisting with dissection.

Social Studies

In Social Studies, we will begin to study our nation's Constitution and learn about how it affects us today!

Spelling/Word Study

Students will be assigned spelling words this week. Words are also posted on the Wiki!

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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